

COUN: Germany (Soviet Zone) 25X1

TOPIC: Military Information from Dessau-Rosslau

EVALUATION: 25X1

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REFERENCES:

PAGES: 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS:

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1. On 14 and 15 June 1952, the engineer unit permanently stationed in Rensburg (M 52/ D 76) was in the summer camp in the wood west of Dessau-Rosslau (M 52/ D 17) south of Brambach. It consisted of: about 1,500 troops; 14 T-34/85 tanks and 18 trucks

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and 20 large and small amphibious trucks. The six sections of the camp were under the command of Captain (dm) Pollonok (fnu). Large piles of wooden bridge building equipment including square beams with small wheels at their ends were seen in the woods. No iron bridge building equipment or pontoons were seen in the store room. (1) On 20 June, an engineer column of about 21 trucks

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left the camp proceeding toward Dessau. On 21 June, a column with billeting equipment arrived at the camp from Dessau. (2) an artillery unit previously stationed in Bornburg and transferred from there to Altenburg (M 53/ Z 00) was transferred to Rostock (M 55/0 81).

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2. Between 8 and 9 a.m. on 22 June, 15 trucks were unloaded at the Dessau railroad station. (3)

3. On 18 June, on the Elbe River east of Alten, stream crossing was practiced with rafts consisting of five coupled pontoons which were towed by a motorboat. These practices were followed at about 5 p.m. by 20 minutes of surprise fire. Officers and EN, wearing camouflage jackets, and armored scout cars were taken across the river.

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4. At 11 a.m. on 19 June, the ban on shipping traffic on the Elbe River between Dessau and Aken was lifted. Numerous bridge building equipment, including 33 pontoons, was stored on the south bank of the Elbe River, across from Brambach. About 100 soldiers were engaged in shipping away equipment. From several rows of piles at two places at the north bank of the Elbe River just east of Brambach, which were between 80 and 100 meters apart, that two bridges had been built.

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5. On 21 June, an engineer unit with 33 trucks, each carrying 2 pontoons, 1 motorboat, 1 ambulance, 1 tank car, between 8 and 10 other trucks and 1 trailer were loaded at the Dessau railroad station, coming from the direction of Altenburg. (2)

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Ten trucks, [redacted] and 6 large amphibious cars were unloaded at the same time. (3)

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6. During the period from 5 to 12 June, the barracks installation in Rossau was occupied by about 200 soldiers and was guarded by sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. The personnel was seen engaged in reconditioning the buildings of the installation. [redacted]

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(4)

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8. [redacted] on 2 June, about 35 trucks and 30 guns were unloaded at the Dessau railroad station and were shipped in the direction of the barracks installation of Gross Kuehnau, west of Dessau. Trucks, including some towing guns of about 76.2-mm were seen prior to 14 June, entering and leaving the barracks installation in Gross Kuehnau. [redacted]

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9. At 4 p.m. on 13 June, a train carrying 12 BA-64 armored scout cars, numerous trucks, [redacted] sedans, including civilian sedans, and an undetermined number of personnel arrived at the Dessau railroad station, coming from the direction of Bitterfeld (N 52/E 14). (7)

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[redacted] Comments.

- (1) On the basis of previous reports by [redacted] it was assumed that the unidentified engineer regiment of the GOFG which, in April 1952, moved from Bernburg to the engineer training site in Dessau, was stationed in the Elbe River area, farther west, between Aken and Breitenhagen. The present report tends to indicate that, since mid-June, the regiment has been stationed in the area south of Brambach and Dietzbeck. Confirmed reports indicate that, in early June, the same area was occupied by components of the 19th Indep Gds Engr Bn of the Eighth Gds Army, the unidentified engineer battalion of the XXIX Gds Itz Rifle Corps and the engineer battalions of the two divisions of this corps which came from the engineer training site in Bad Koesen. See [redacted]
- (2) The unidentified engineer regiment of the GOFG probably remained in the same area. The mutually confirming information [redacted] of paragraphs 2, 5, and 9 tends to indicate that units of the engineer battalions of the Eighth Gds Army, mentioned in [redacted] Comment (1), units of the army and of the 57th Gds Itz Rifle Div were reshipped on 21 June after two weeks practice.
- (3) The 88th Gds Engr Bn of the 20th Gds Recz Div and the 45th Gds Engr Bn of the 39th Gds Itz Rifle Div apparently arrived as part of a rotation schedule. [redacted]
- (4) The 7th Gds Tank Div stationed in the barracks installation in Rossau is at Letzling Heath.
- (5) [redacted]

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- (6) The train unloaded on 2 June probably is the train [redacted] which, according to another report, went from Ties
Lager, Juetarboog to Dessau on 7 June. [redacted] observed at the barracks
installation east of Gross Kuchlau prior to 14 June, elements of the
62d AAA Div (US) of the Third Gds Army which possibly were assigned
to guard the Elbe River bridges have arrived there. The barracks
installation east of Gross Kuchlau are the permanent quarters of a tank
regiment of the 7th Gds Tank Div which moved to Letzling West in early
April.
- (7) [redacted] this train carried elements of four
regiments of the 21st Gds Mecz Div. About one third of the division was
still at the Iossa troop training grounds in mid-June, while about two
thirds were still believed stationed in Halle. They possibly were
advance detachments which were to prepare the transfer of additional
elements of the division moving to the engineer training area. This
division had also participated in engineer practices in the area of
Dessau-Aken in the summer of 1951.

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